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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 29, 1968

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Dear Abe:

One hundred-odd years ago President Lincoln found a general.

I have been lucky enough to find two field generals. In the last three months you have fully exploited the situation created during the last three years by your predecessor, General Westmoreland.

Today I have taken one more step which we all hope will lead toward peace -- the cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam. This step toward peace would not have been possible if you and Westy had not been successful on the field of battle.

But you and I know that the really crucial stage of both diplomatic and military operations is now upon us. If we are to win the kind of peace in Paris we want, you must keep the enemy on the run -- in South Vietnam and in Laos.

Make sure every plane and pilot released from bombing North Vietnam is brought to bear with full weight on good targets in Laos or in South Vietnam. In the three months in which I shall still be your Commander in Chief, I want you to lean on the enemy with all the manpower and equipment we have accumulated.

I want you to inspire the ARVN to do the same. If you need anything that we can get you quickly, let me know.

Your President and your country are counting on you to follow the enemy in relentless pursuit. Don't give them a minute's rest. Keep pouring it on. Let the enemy feel the weight of everything you've got.

With luck and with Abe, we shall conquer ourselves a peace in the next three months -- without the loss of a single battle or skirmish -- as General Winfield Scott did 120-some years ago.

Sincerely,

General Creighton W. Abrams
Commander, U.S. Military
Assistance Command, Vietnam

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